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MAY 28, 1954

Routing Form

Doc. No.:

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Indicate title of person to take action and that of the originator. Place comments there under by numbered paragraphs. Initial in center of page and draw a line across the page and forward. Each recipient is to repeat above procedure until action completed and ready for filing. This cover-sheet must be retained with enclosure.

TO:

FROM:

DATE:

~~ELO~~
~~DE/P~~
C/FI
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[]

note re []

[] interest

[] is seeing Superior today (2 June) with the purpose in mind of convincing him to have the Church play a more forceful role viz any labor - by having priest work as labor figures behind the scenes.

[]

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

VIA: COURIER
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. RCG-A-1139

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CLASSIFICATION

TO : LINCOLN

DATE MAY 28 1954

FROM : Chief of Station, Guatemala

SUBJECT: GENERAL—

SPECIFIC— KUGOWN Operational Report

Ref: GUAT 623

1. ESCOBILLA informed RAZMARA that in his opinion it will not be possible to induce the Church to take part in the formation of a labor movement at this time.

2. According to ESCOBILLA, the Church encouraged the formation of the Union Nacional de Trabajadores Libres (UNTL). An unidentified Basque priest had been assigned this task by the Archbishop, but after the government crack-down on the UNTL and expulsion of its leaders the priest was assigned other duties and the Church decided to suspend any further activities in the labor field until a more propitious time. ESCOBILLA understands that a group of [] Jesuits specially trained in labor matters will be brought into the country if and when a government favorable to the Church is established.

3. ESCOBILLA added that the Church's reluctance to take a more active part at this time is conditioned by Constitutional provisions forbidding it to mix in labor or political matters.

4. Despite the negative results of this attempt to inspire Church action in the labor field, we still feel it possible to arrange for some positive steps even though it probably will be necessary to conceal the fact and the nature of the part that the Church might play. SUPERIOR appears to be the only other person that could undertake to establish contacts in Church circles at this time. ESTIBAL will be instructed to investigate all possibilities as soon as SUPERIOR returns to WSBURNT.

[]
George L. Tranger

26 May 1954

GLT/sgl

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